

EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY TREATMENT

and the commencement of treatment, suggests that his first attack was possibly the responsible one. This time lag is all too common amongst seamen who contract gonorrhoea.

On the other hand, the rapid and comparatively easy dilatation of the strictures indicates a more recent origin and the presence of a transitional subepithelial infiltration, probably resulting from the 1944 infection. Unfortunately, no urethroscopy was possible at the time of diagnosis, and it was not felt to be desirable in the Out-patients' Department to perform a meatotomy. When the meatus was sufficiently dilated to admit the smallest cannula available, the patient departed.

Such cases are rare. Only one is recorded, so far as I can trace, in the literature: McLachlan in 1943 described a case of stricture formation occurring two years after successful chemotherapy. Nevertheless, such cases may be less rare than is imagined: the patients may not report to a venereologist, but be referred to a genito-urinary surgeon.

This case, moreover, provides good reason for deploring the use of chemotherapy by ships' officers and others without adequate instruction of the patient as to the necessity for subsequent surveillance and tests of cure (including urethroscopy), as soon as a port is reached in which these facilities are available.

I am indebted to Dr. R. H. Parry, Medical Officer of Health for the City and Port of Bristol, for permission to publish this case record.

Bristol and Avonmouth

D. T. RICHARDS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

REFERENCE

McLachlan, A. E. W. (1943) *Brit. J. vener. Dis.*, 19, 181.

LEAFLETS ON THE TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASES OF THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY

By A. FESSLER, F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.D. (Vienna)

Venereal Diseases Officer, Lancashire County Council

Mr. R. Sharpe France, Archivist of the Lancashire County Council, kindly drew my attention to a collection of cuttings and leaflets, which had been deposited by Sir Roger Hulton, Bt., in the County Record Office. The collection contains—besides a large variety of items, such as political pamphlets, invitations to shareholders' meetings, announcements of auctions, sales, shows and so forth—a number of leaflets dealing with the treatment of venereal disease. The leaflets, which were all issued in London, are not dated. Nevertheless, with the help of those parts of the collection which are dated and by inference from the style of printing, it seems to be possible to state with a fair amount of accuracy that the leaflets were printed in the first two decades of the nineteenth century. Six of the leaflets were published by "Doctors", namely by "Dr. Eady", "Doctor Harvey", "Drs. C. and J. Jordan", "Dr. Lamert, Senior", and "Dr. Matthews"; the collection contains two different types of leaflet issued by "Dr. Lamert, Senior". The remaining two leaflets were published by "Surgeons": "Messrs. Sloans & Co.", and Messrs. "Tho. Taylor and Son"; the latter stress the fact that their names are on the "List of regular Surgeons published annually by the Royal College".

The leaflets provide interesting and amusing reading from the medical and from the social points of view. After the time of John Hunter's unfortunate self-experiment in 1767, the dogma of the unity of syphilis and gonorrhoea was dominant until the publication of Ricord's *Monographie du chancre* in 1837; it is therefore easy to understand why Dr. Eady and his colleagues do not distinguish between the two infections. One gets the impression, however, that

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they are concerned chiefly with syphilis. A difference is made between "slight" (perhaps early) cases and those of "long standing". Special attention is drawn to the signs of late syphilis, to tertiary syphilitic lesions, such as "ulcers in the throat, nose, and roof of the mouth", "nocturnal pains in the limbs", "nodes on the shin bones". "Dimness of sight" might be optic nerve atrophy. "Blotches and eruptions" might refer to secondary as well as to tertiary syphilis.

Among the sequelae of chronic gonorrhoea "obstinate gleet" and strictures are mentioned. "Seminal weakness" seems to play an important part among the venereal diseases. If we remember the recent controversy on the use (or misuse) of the words, venereal disease and venereologist, we have to admit that the authors of the leaflets were right in regarding sexual neurasthenia as a venereal disease; etymologists have declared that "venereal" means pertaining to the art of making love.

All the authors—not without justification—are against "salivation" and they condemn the use of mercury. One can only guess that the main ingredient of their medicines, pills and drops may have been sarsaparilla. It is interesting to note that at that time the difficulty of treating venereal disease among travellers and seamen had already been recognized. Some of the "Doctors" claim that their remedies have a preventive action if taken up to twenty-four or even thirty-six hours after a "suspicious connexion". It may be permissible to wonder whether or not the "Preventive Penicillin Pill", which might comply with the claims put forward by Dr. Harvey for his "Anti-Venereal Pills", is still a long way off. The "Doctors" do not state how much time the treatment takes. Messrs. Sloans & Co., "Surgeons", promise to cure "radically" slight cases in three days and long-standing cases in about ten days; Messrs. Taylor & Son need fifteen days to cure their patients but admit that there might be exceptions.

Venereal disease at that time had already spread among both sexes and among all classes of society. Some of the leaflets are addressed to "either sex" and special arrangements for the treatment of female patients are announced. In order to attract all classes, terms are promised which are "inequivocal", "moderate", and so on. The gratis advice, promised to "the Poor" by the Drs. Jordan, might be regarded as a contribution to the wave of philanthropy characteristic of the period.

Much consideration is given to secrecy. The location of back doors and side doors and of bells and lights is carefully described. To spare the patients an embarrassing search and inquiry for the doctor's house, useful hints are given as to how street and house can be found easily. The long working hours are startling. Dr. Lamert, Senior, could be consulted "every day from 7 in the morning till 10 in the evening and on Sunday from 8 to 12".

In typical quack-treatment fashion, treatment by post is offered. The "Doctors" do not seem to have been venereologists only; some of them recommend their treatment for various other complaints, such as piles, fistulas, ruptures, "the itch". The leaflets of the "Surgeons", especially that of Messrs. Taylor & Co., are offers of quack treatment at its worst. The leaflets of the "Doctors" seem to be on a higher level. Dr. Eady goes even so far as to declare that he cannot perform miracles and that "he will not presume to pledge infallibility in every description of case".

I wish to thank Sir Roger Hulton, Bt., Mr. R. H. Adcock, Clerk of the Lancashire County Council, and Dr. F. Hall, County Medical Officer of Health for Lancashire, for permission to publish this article.

SPECIMENS OF ADVERTISEMENTS: PERIOD 1800-1820

By His Majesty's Royal Authority.

DR. MATTHEWS'S

Alterative Medicines, at 2s. 9d. each Box and Bottle
are recommended for the Cure of the
VENEREAL DISEASE,

EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY TREATMENT

At his House, no. 38, in Hart Street, Covent Garden
opposite Covent Garden Theatre.

INASMUCH, that by upwards of forty years' experience and extensive practice, more than 90,00 persons have been perfectly cured of the above disorder, salivations and all other methods avail nothing. They are declared by the most eminent physicians and surgeons to be an admirable and compendious medicine: being free from mercury, require no particular attention or hindrance from business which makes them peculiarly convenient for the traveller, seaman, and servant, whose business must be attended. To make the secrecy as profound as possible, the Doctor constantly attends himself; being particularly attentive to the symptoms of every disorder, gives the medicines conformable thereto, provides every other topical application, without the least trouble to the patient; and above all, is ever careful of the principal object, the constitution of the patient. His Preventative, which, if taken within 24 hours after connection, will infallibly prevent the disorder taking place. Delays may be attended with disagreeable consequences. His Chemical Tincture, at 2s. 9d., a certain Cure for the Itch, without discovery, injuring the linen, or affecting the health. Advice gratis.

To obviate the objections made to other practitioners, in expence and time, patients will be treated on the most unequivocal and moderate terms.

THE VENEREAL DISEASE,

effectually cured by

DR. EADY,

38, Dean-street, Soho, leading out of Gerrard-st.

Dr. Eady, by his own peculiar mode of treatment, has attained that pre-eminence for the cure of the VENEREAL DISEASE, whether of long standing or otherwise, for which he enjoys the gratitude of great numbers; amongst whom there are many persons of distinction not less grateful: he makes no pretence to perform miracles, but by just evidence of truth to act consistent with its dictates.

Dr. Eady remarks as follows:—let no man be deceived, Diseases in their very nature as opposite as fire and water, cannot be cured by the same medicine; and can there be found persons who are so ignorant as to believe the most mild as well as the most malignant disorders, are cured by, in all respects, the same remedy? Yes, it is too true there are many such dupes, who are daily destroyed by their own incredulity.

“In guarding the unwary against such who hold the word of promise to the ear and break it to the hope,” Dr. Eady will not presume to pledge infallibility in every description of case; but as far as human aid, assisted by medical and surgical skill can be applied, he promises a certain, speedy and permanent restoration.

Consumption, Rheumatism, Dropsies, Head Aches, and Nervous Irritation (in many cases bordering on madness), Eruptions, pains in the limbs, obstinate gleans, ulcerations, dimness of sight, nodes on the shin bones, and ulcerated sore throats, are amongst the symptoms arising out of improper treatment, which too often, without timely assistance, prove fatal. Female complaints are successfully and satisfactorily treated.

38, Dean Street, Soho, is a private House, opposite Meard's Street; one end of Dean Street leads into Gerrard Street, nearly opposite the General Twopenny Post Office, and the other into Oxford Street.

Advice gratis to the Poor.

*By His Majesty's Royal Authority—*Doctor HARVEY'S

Anti-Veneréal Pills, and Grand Restorative Drops,

At 2s. 9d. each Box or Bottle, are recommended for the Cure of the
VENEREAL DISEASE.

At his House, 53 SHOE-LANE, 5 Doors from Holborn-Hill,

Opposite the Church Wall (a Golden Head over the Door)

THESE medicines never fail curing the above disorder, without confinement or restraint of diet, being an alternative free from mercury, and may be taken without the least danger to the most delicate constitution (at any season of the year), as they work off by urine; thousands in this metropolis having experienced their happy effects by a perfect cure, when salivation and other methods have failed; they are a most convenient medicine for travellers, seamen and servants, whose business must be attended, will keep their virtue any length of time, and for their ease and speedy operation are not to be excelled—to enumerate the cures would fill a volume.

Any person imagining himself injured, may, by applying within 36 hours, have a medicine that will prevent the disorder taking place. Neglect is dangerous. Gleans and Seminal weaknesses effectually cured. The Itch also in a few days. Attends from 8 in the morning till 10 at night. Advice gratis—Sold, sealed up, with full and plain directions, whereby persons of either sex may cure themselves with ease and secrecy. No letters received unless post paid.

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THE VENEREAL DISEASE,

effectually cured

Which is well known in the Metropolis, and other parts of the kingdom, many thousands having been saved by

DR. LAMERT, SEN.,

at his old establishment,

10, CHURCH STREET, SPITALFIELDS,

Ten Doors from Spitalfields Church, London.

Where he has resided more than 55 years, and continues successfully to eradicate every symptom of so dreadful a complaint, whether arising from quacking themselves, or by consulting those ignorant pretenders to medical skill, who by their boasted promises delude the unwary. Those who suspect themselves injured, by an early application, may be relieved in twenty-four hours. In the course of DR. LAMERT'S extensive practice he has witnessed thousands having fallen victims through the pernicious use of mercurials and salivation, which not only debilitate, but eventually destroy the constitution. Slight cases, and even those of long standing, ulcers in the throat, nose, and roof of the mouth, eruptions and blotches in various parts of the body, strictures, dimness of sight, noise in the ears, deafness, nocturnal pains in the limbs, frequently taken and fatally treated as rheumatism, nodes on the shin bones, buboes, shankers and glandular swellings, by a superior mode of treatment, speedily and permanent cured, without confinement or hindrance of business, on terms suitable to the circumstances of each individual.

The Doctor may be consulted daily, by both sexes, in all cases, in different languages, from 8 in the morning, till nine in the evening, as above; and on Sunday from 8 in the morning till 12. Or by letter (post paid) inclosing a fee, for no others are answered, will be duly attended to. The public will please to observe the name and place of abode, as there is another Doctor in the same street.

The piles and fistulas cured without any surgical operation. The Doctor's great skill in the cure of ruptures is too well known to need any comment here, suffice it to say, that where the application of a truss is deemed necessary, the Doctor will apply it without any charge to the Patient. Private apartments for the better accommodation of both sexes, at No. 10, Church-street, Spitalfields, a large sign at the front of the house. Advice gratis. A back door round the corner up the gateway, name on the door.

THE VENEREAL DISEASE.

In all its Complicated Stages, Effectually Cured by

MESSRS. SLOANS & CO., Surgeons,

At the Medical Institution,

4, Paternoster Row, Cheapside, London.

Without the indiscriminate use of Mercury, confinement or salivation, so injurious to the Constitution. Slight cases radically cured in three days, and if long standing, in about ten days, at half the usual expence.

The numbers that fall daily, victims to the disease, owing to the improper use of mercury is a sufficient proof of its deleterious effects, and which frequently causes Nodes on the Shin Bones, with pains in the Head and Limbs, Eruptions, Ulcerated Sore Throats, Drowsiness, and a train of disorders too numerous to mention.

The treatment adopted at this Institution is simple and efficacious, therefore does not prevent any person from following their usual avocation.

SEMINAL WEAKNESSES,

Or persons who injured their Constitution by so immoderate indulgence of their passions, will find relief by applying as above.

The strictest secrecy may be relied on

Side Door in Panyer Alley. No Letters received unless post paid

Great Cures are constantly performed of the

VENEREAL DISEASE,

in a few days,

BY DR. LAMERT, SEN.

at No. 10 Church Street, Spitalfields, 10 doors from Spitalfields's Church, London.

Dr. Lamert assures the Public the above complaint has been his constant study and continues successfully to eradicate it in its different stages without confinement, hindrance of business, or injury to the constitution. If application be made within twenty-four hours after a suspicious connexion, he has a Preventive to stop its progress without any danger of its entering the system. Honor and Secrecy will be observed, and on terms suitable to the circumstances of each individual.

Either Sex may be consulted with every Day, from 7 in the morning till 10 in the evening as above. And on Sunday from 8 in the morning till 12.

Take Notice, Dr. Lamert's House is No. 10, a large Sign being in Front of the house for the Sale or his celebrated "Nervous Balsam". Bells outside and middle door. Lamp in the Passage. No Letters received unless post paid.

Advice gratis.

EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY TREATMENT

SPEEDY CURE & MODERATE TERMS.

Those unhappy Patients, who through the boasted promises of ignorant pretenders to medical skill, or through wilful procrastination in order to increase expences, endure additional pangs, and have become considerable sufferers by delay, &c. are earnestly invited either to the East or West London Medical Establishment,

28, BERWICK STREET, SOHO,
(Leading to Oxford Street,)

Or, NO.7, CANNON STREET ROAD,
Near the Commercial Road Turnpike, St. George's in the East ;
Where

DRS. C. and J. JORDAN,
May be consulted in all Disorders, slight or long standing with certain success and little expence. They have in every case for many Years effectually cured the
VENEREAL DISEASE,

In its worst stages, without the pernicious use of mercurials and salivation, so destructive to the human frame. Their mode of treatment is mild, certain, and inoffensive, occasioning no confinement, or any hindrance from business. They have been equally fortunate in cases of Seminal Weakness, having restored strength and vigour to thousands of debilitated young men, now happy husbands and fathers. They cure the piles, fistula &c. without any surgical operation, and speedily remove ulcers in the throat, nose or roof of the mouth, eruptions, blotches, strictures, dimness of sight, deafness, glandular swellings, nodes, &c. with efficacy and without delay.

These Establishments have attained notoriety by the eminent success of its Proprietors, and by their honourable and liberal conduct. Secrecy is particularly observed, and the charges are rendered easy according to the circumstances of the patient.

Private Apartments for Females ; letters from the country post paid, (as no others are received), inclosing a Bank Note, and stating the nature of the complaint, will be duly attended to, and Medicines sent to any part of the kingdom. Drs. C. and J. Jordan may be consulted daily, by either sex, from 8 in the Morning till 9 in the Evening, and the Poor have likewise advice gratis every Sunday and Thursday Mornings till 9 o'clock.

By his Majesty's Letters Patent. LEAKE'S JUSTLY FAMOUS PILL,

Which for more than 65 years has been esteemed the most efficacious remedy and compleat specific for all venereal disorders, ever discovered ; in chronical rheumatism, glandular obstructions, old sores, and disorders arising from an impure state of the blood it excels ; and for pimpled faces, scurf, and all eruptions of the skin, commonly called scorbutic, it has not its parallel. One small tasteless pill is a dose, its operation imperceptible, requiring no particular attention, confinement, or restraint of diet, yet curing with ease, secrecy, and safety.

In 15 days it generally cures those cruel disorders ; and where it fails in that time of perfectly restoring health, the patient has the happy assurance that he or she is at the eve being to restored, let the degree of malignancy be ever so great. It is an excellency peculiar to these pills, to make directly to the complaining part, and enter into contest with the offending matter, which they quickly dislodge and expel. They are declared by experience to be a preserver of health, as well as restorer, by taking only eight single pills, spring and fall in every year. In short, the patentees have this extraordinary obligation to them, that whatever they promised themselves from them, they were sure to fulfill and exceed, as tho' impatient of immortal and universal fame. These pills are most worthy a place in the cabinets of masters and captain of ships ; the more so, for that they will keep good in all climates any length of time, and that they have borne the test above 65 years, with increasing credit to themselves and honour to their author ; inasmuch, that during the last 12 years, they have radically cured upwards of 80,000 persons, many of whom had been discharged from hospitals, where salivation had been frequently repeated, and all other methods made use of without effect.

Prepared and sold by the Proprietors,
THO. TAYLOR, and SON,

Members of the Royal College of Surgeons*,

At their House, No. 9, New Bridge-street, Black Friars, London ; in Boxes of only 2s. 9d. each.

A back door ; lights in the passages at night.

The Proprietors will give advice and all proper assistance to persons taking the above or other of their preparations without a fee. Letters from patients, post-paid, duly answered, and medicines carefully and secretly sent into the country by any of the carriers.

They are also sold by their appointment, for the convenience of those living at a distance, at the Perfumer's, No. 35, St. Alban's Street, Pall Mall ; Mr. Hepburn's Toy-shop, No. 103, Oxford-street ; and Mr. Disborough's No. 7, Fish-street-hill, nearly opposite the Monument.

* See the List of regular Surgeons annually published by the Royal College.